

THE STATE OF TEXAS                   §  
COUNTY OF ANDERSON               §  
CITY OF PALESTINE                   §

The Charter Review Committee of the City of Palestine convened in a Special Meeting on Monday, November 20, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., in the City Hall Conference Room, 504 N. Queen Street, Palestine, Texas, with the following people present: Dan Bochsler, Edwina Miller, Jessie Sweet, Tracy Torma, Mattie Jackson, Jodi Davis, Marilyn Ester-Barnes, and Cotrina Davis. Committee Member Cotrina Davis arrived at 3:32 p.m.

Staff present: City Manager Teresa Herrera, City Secretary April Jackson, and City Attorney Rezzin Pullum.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present, Chair Dan Bochsler called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no proposed changes to agenda items.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES**

No action was taken.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Consider approval of minutes from the November 6, 2024, meeting.

Motion by Committee Member Tracy Torma, seconded by Committee Member Jodi Davis, to approve the item as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

1. Discussion and possible action regarding Article IX. – Initiative, Referendum, and Recall; Article X. – Taxation; and Article XI. – Miscellaneous Provisions.

### **ARTICLE IX. INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL**

**Section 9.1. Power of initiative.** - A discussion was held about the number of voters needed to initiate a petition for initiative and referendum. The Committee also discussed the additional information required from the signers of the petition.

City Attorney Pullum proposed the following revision: An initiative petition is valid only if it is signed by registered and qualified electors of the city equal in number to or greater than 20 25 percent of the votes cast for governor by registered and qualified voters of the City of Palestine from in the most recent general City election at which that office was filled.

**Section 9.2. Power of referendum.** – The following revision was proposed following the previous discussion held: The referendum petition is valid only if signed by registered and qualified voters of the city in a number equal to or greater than ~~20~~ **25** percent of the number of ~~votes cast for governor~~ by registered and qualified voters of the City of Palestine ~~from~~ **in** the most recent ~~general~~ **City** election ~~at which that office was filled.~~

**Section 9.3. Form of petition, committee of petitioners.** – City Attorney Pullum proposed the following revision to allow consistency with initiative and referendum petition processes: Initiative **and Referendum** petition papers shall contain the full text of the proposed **or enacted** ordinance.

**Section 9.4. Filing examination and certification of petitions.** – City Attorney Pullum suggested revising the timeline for processing petitions. The following revision was proposed: Within ~~40~~ **15 business** days after the petition is filed, the city secretary shall determine whether the petition is signed by a sufficient number of registered and qualified voters.

**Section 9.5. Amendment of petitions.** - City Attorney Pullum suggested revising the timeline for processing petitions. The following revision was proposed: An initiative or referendum petition may be amended at any time within **ten (10) business** days after the notification of insufficiency has been sent by the city secretary by filing a supplementary petition upon which additional papers signed and filed, as provided in case of an original petition. The city secretary shall, within ~~five~~ **ten (10) business** days after such an amendment is filed, make examination of the amended petition and, if the petition is still insufficient, a certificate shall be filed to that effect in the office of the city secretary and the circulator shall be notified of findings of the city secretary and no further action shall be had on such insufficient petition.

**Section 9.7. Submission to electors.** – The following revision was proposed: If the council shall fail to pass an ordinance proposed by the initiative petition, or shall pass it in a form different from that set forth in the petition ~~therefore~~, or if the council fails to repeal a referred ordinance, the proposed or referred ordinance shall be submitted to the electors at the next authorized election date that **allows full compliance with state and local election laws** ~~is more than 30 days after the passage by the council.~~

**Section 9.12. Petitions for recall of mayor.** – The following revision was proposed: Said petition shall be signed by qualified voters of the city equal in number to ~~20~~ **25** percent or more of the number of ~~votes cast for governor~~ by registered and qualified voters of the city in the most recent ~~general~~ **City** election ~~at which that office was filled.~~ Each signer must enter the date the petition is signed next to the signature.

**Section 9.13. Petitions for recall of council members.** – The following revision was proposed: That is, the petition must be signed by 10 percent of the registered and qualified voters **in the district**, but in no event less than 50 such petitions from the district which the council member serves.

**Section 9.17. Public hearing to be held.** – The following revision was proposed: The officer whose removal is sought may, within five **business** days after such recall petition has been presented to the city council, request that a public hearing be held. In this event, the city council shall order such public hearing to be held, not less than 10 **business** days nor more than 20 **business** days after receiving the request, and shall publish notice of the hearing in a paper of general circulation within the city at least one time before such public hearing.

**Section 9.21. Recall, restrictions thereon.** – The following revision was proposed: No recall petition shall be filed against any officer of the City of Palestine within three **(3)** months after the officer's election, nor within **three** (3) months after an election for such officer's recall.

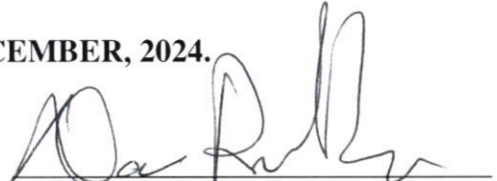
**ITEMS FOR PLACEMENT ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

Chair Dan Bochsler requested the continued review of Article VII. Budget, Article X. Taxation, and Article XI. Miscellaneous Provisions at the next meeting.

**ADJOURN**

With no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.**

  
DAN BOCHSLER, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

  
APRIL JACKSON, CITY SECRETARY